



## GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM-2) PROGRAM

### EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT IN ARMM AND CAAM

#### Education Awareness Support Effort (EASE) Program

#### BACKGROUND



With additional support from an EASE Matching Grant, public schools in ARMM & CAAM were able to purchase books, shelves, tables, and security grills for the library. This attracted the attention of a Manila-based donor, which sent them a large delivery of children's books for free.

**EASE** works with Parent-Teachers-Community Associations (PTCAs) and local groups to raise awareness on the state of education in the ARMM. Under its Matching Grant Program, USAID directly matches - peso for peso - any funds that the PTCAs and other community groups raise to finance improvements in the schools. Assistance is provided directly to the PTCAs.

USAID has awarded matching grants to Parent-Teacher Community Associations (PTCAs) with schools in the ARMM and neighboring conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. These have been used to establish libraries and science laboratories, and purchase multi-media teaching aids and other educational materials. USAID anticipates awarding about 100 of these matching grants each year.

Visit our website  
<http://www.usaid-ph.gov>  
keywords : EASE, ARMM education

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#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

##### What is a Matching Grant?

This is funding provided to "match" funds raised by Parent-Teacher-Community Associations and other community organizations for a specific education improvement activity in a qualified school.

##### Who funds these Matching Grants?

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provides the "matching" funds. The Matching Grant Program is an element of the Education Awareness Support Effort (EASE) of USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program.

##### How much money is in a Matching Grant?

The size of a Matching Grant is determined by the amount raised by the Parent-Teacher Community Associations and other community organizations for the activity. For example, if a PTCA and its partners are able to raise P20,000 to set up a library, then it can apply for a Matching Grant of P20,000. A Matching Grant will amount to no more than 50 percent of the total activity cost. Matching Grants cannot exceed 500,000 pesos.

##### What kinds of activities can be assisted by a Matching Grant?

- A wide range of activities are possible. These are some examples of the activities that can be proposed:
- Establishing or improving school libraries
- Setting up science laboratories
- Purchase of computers for student use
- Providing for teacher training in academic subjects

##### Matching Grants cannot be provided for:

- Activities or projects that are the mandate of the Department of Education, such as school construction or the provision of desks and school furniture
- Activities in support of religious education/training
- Activities not directly related to education improvement

##### Who can apply for a Matching Grant?

PTCAs and other community groups, such as:

- Alumni Associations
- Chambers of Commerce and other business support organizations
- Civic groups and NGOs

##### Must contributions for the proposed activity be entirely in cash?

A cash contribution from the PTCA is required, but additional contributions in the form of labor and/or materials may also be accepted.

##### How do organizations apply for Matching Grants?

Contact the nearest GEM office in your area. (See the back of this brochure.) Just send a message by text, fax or email, and GEM will be happy to call you to let you know how to apply for a Matching Grant. Be sure to include your name, the name of your school, and your cellphone or telephone number in the message.



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## Education Awareness Support Effort (EASE)

### GEM OFFICES

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### MATCHING GRANT EXAMPLES

•A PTCA of a school in Maguindanao Province raised funds from its own members, from community donors, and the local Chamber of Commerce. The funds were “matched” by the EASE Program and used to buy equipment and materials needed for a science lab. Having a lab not only enabled the students to expand their knowledge, it also resulted in reactivation of the school’s Science Club.



•Cotabato, with contributions from its members, the graduating class of 2004, and a retired teachers’ association, was able to establish a library for the local school. With additional support from a Matching Grant, they were able to purchase books, shelves, tables, and security grills for the library. This attracted the attention of a Manila-based donor, which sent them a large delivery of children’s books for free.



•The PTCA of a high school in Basilan raised money through member contributions and a fund-raising dinner to enable a small group of students and teachers to attend a school journalism conference in Manila.

